



# **BUILDING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY WITHIN OUR SCHOOL – THROUGH THE GOOD AND THE BAD**

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# PLAN FOR TODAY

- Who are we? Why community building?
- What has our community of faculty, staff and students shared? What are their visions of community building? (Interviews, focus groups and survey findings)
- What are we doing now to build community?
- Let's brainstorm and share ideas.

# LET'S BUILD COMMUNITY TOGETHER

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How do we build an awesome sense of community among students , staff, and faculty within an international school environment?

How do we ensure that every member of our schools feel like they belong?

Our goal is to establish an atmosphere that transforms our schools into a home away from home.

Join us for a discussion on community-building!





# FACULTY FEEDBACK

Coffee & pastries

Lunches

Parties and gifts to celebrate successes outside of school, birthdays, etc.

Teacher-led best practice sessions

Staff recognition, positive feedback

More staff events off-campus



# WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW FOR OUR FACULTY?

Regular luncheons

Coffee break in the academic office

Monthly PD sessions with involvement from staff of other departments

Work anniversaries, teacher appreciation days





# STAFF FEEDBACK

Having a heart to heart with our staff, this is what they shared.

- Every end of session: a time to celebrate a job well done. Drinks and snacks at the school once students have left for the day.
- More team building activities. An activity off-campus to foster collaboration and strengthen relationships beyond the workplace.
- Ideas: escape rooms, board game night, bowling, etc.
- Create a space to unwind – during low season convert an empty classroom into a yoga, stretch, relaxation space



# WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW FOR OUR STAFF?

End of session beer and wine on the last Friday of a session to show our appreciation to faculty and staff.

Matinée coffee break (10h30 meetup at the coffee machine) Let's make coffee together, and chat!

A motto to inspire. Eg. "Don't panic, organize!"

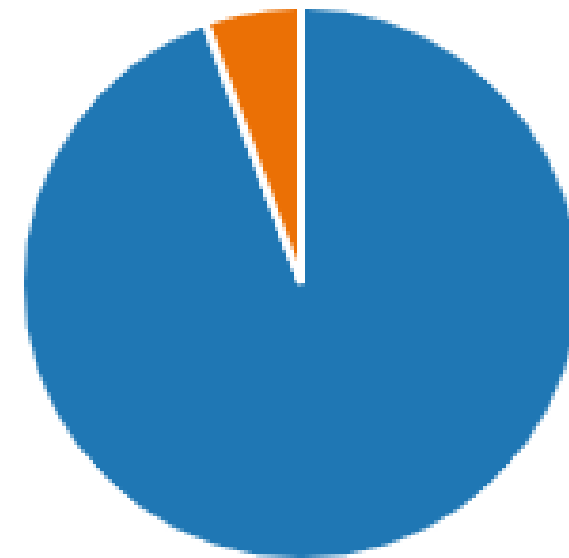
Celebrate anniversaries, birthdays, etc.



# WHAT DO STUDENTS THINK?

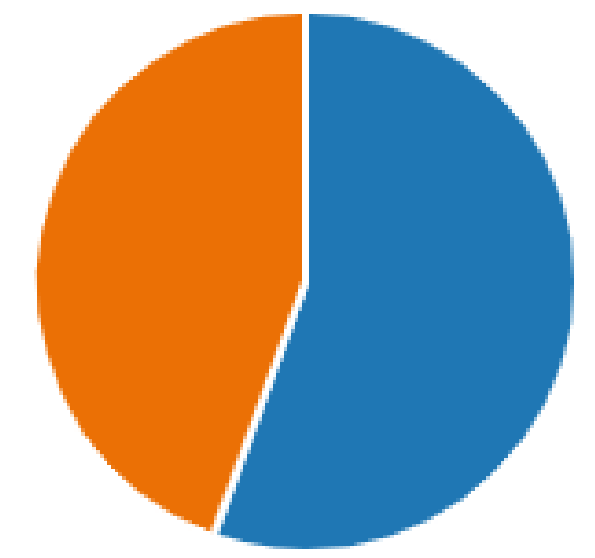
1. Is it important for you to feel like you are part of a community at school?

[More Details](#)



2. Do you experience a sense of community at ILSC?

[More Details](#)







# STUDENT FEEDBACK

**How can we build a stronger community for our students?**

Create conversation groups (clubs) after classes.

Create hobby clubs such as photography or book club.

More cultural activities, multicultural potluck.

Support group clubs provide a space for students to discuss their experiences in the city and share their feelings with each other.

Celebrate birthdays

# A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Building a community not only within our schools, but also within our local community.

| Monday<br>Lundi                                       | Tuesday<br>Mardi  | Wednesday<br>Mercredi                              | Thursday<br>Jeudi  | Friday<br>Vendredi  | Saturday<br>Samedi   | Sunday<br>Dimanche   |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| Orientation day/<br>workshop day <b>29</b>            | Premier jour<br>d'école / First<br>day of class <b>30</b>                   | Board Games<br>Free Entry <b>31</b>                | Volunteer<br>registration for<br>food bank <b>1</b>            | Decorating the<br>school for<br>Valentine's Day <b>2</b>                        | Suggestion:<br>Gala du Nouvel An<br>Chinois au Canada<br>2024 <b>3</b> | Suggestion: La<br>Poutine Week <b>4</b>                            |
| Suggestion:<br>Museum of<br>Illusions MTL <b>5</b>    | Suggestion: Try<br>Luminotherapie At<br>Quartier Des<br>Spectacles <b>6</b> | Movies & pop corn<br>at School<br>2:30 pm <b>7</b> | Collection of second-<br>hand clothes for<br>donation <b>8</b> | Origami session:<br>hearts of<br>gratitude <b>9</b>                             | Quebec City<br>From \$99 <b>10</b>                                     | MONT AVILA<br>DAY TOUR<br>Skiing & Snowboarding<br>\$165 <b>11</b> |
| Coloring for the<br>soul at ILSC<br>2:30 pm <b>12</b> | Visit Westmount<br>Greenhouses<br>Free entry <b>13</b>                      | Valentine's Day, get<br>chocolates!! <b>14</b>     | Ice skating at<br>L'Esplanade<br>Tranquille<br>FREE! <b>15</b> | Suggestion: INSITU<br>ESPLANADE DE LA<br>PLACE DES ARTS<br>Free entry <b>16</b> | NEW YORK CITY<br>From \$399 <b>16,17,18,19</b>                         |  |
| Suggestion:<br>Barbie Expo<br>Free Entry <b>19</b>    | Board Games<br>Free Entry <b>20</b>   | Mont Royal Hike<br>Free <b>21</b>                  | Bring & Sign Your<br>Flag!! <b>22</b>                          | Special Club<br>Night at JET!<br>Free Entry <b>23</b>                           | TORONTO & NIAGARA FALLS<br>From \$350 \ <b>24,25,26</b>                |  |

**STUDENT AMBASSADORS**

**TEACHER-LED ACTIVITIES**

**COMMUNITY SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY – VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, CLOTHING & FOOD DRIVE, FUNDRAISING**

**AGES – HAPPY HOUR FOR ADULTS, MOVIES FOR MINORS**

**CLUBS – SPORTS, ART, GAMES, CONVERSATION, SINGING, BOOK**

# GROUP DISCUSSION

## CASE SCENARIOS

- ❖ Low season or low student numbers
- ❖ High season or high student numbers
- ❖ High % of particular nationality and/or language
- ❖ Juniors
- ❖ Policy or program changes
- ❖ Emergency situations

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER IN YOUR GROUPS

- ✓ School dynamics
- ✓ Impact on the 3 groups
- ✓ Damage prevention
- ✓ Damage repair
- ✓ What success (improved sense of community) looks/feels like
- ✓ Stop / Start / Continue

# TAKEAWAYS



**1** PRIORITIZE COMMUNITY-BUILDING

**2** FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS HAVE A COMMON DESIRE: INVOLVEMENT

**3** COLLECT FEEDBACK

**4** REVIEW YOUR CURRENT PRACTICES

**5** INCORPORATE SUGGESTIONS & IDEAS

**6** CONSIDER WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE SCHOOL

# THANK YOU - MERCI

